



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS-2019-00597

1 Wildlife Drive
Sanibel, Florida 33957

July 30, 2019

Jimmy Tobias
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 70980
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Tobias:

This serves as a partial response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, request, dated March 26, 2019. In your request, you asked for:

- All records relating to any change, by instruction, guidance, memoranda, or otherwise, to policy, practice, or procedure governing the decision(s) to list, decline to list, de-list, or down-list any species or category of species or to defer or accelerate any such decision;
- All records relating to any change in the standards, criteria, or review process applicable to decision(s) to list, decline to list, de-list, or down-list any species or category of species, or to defer or accelerate any such decision;
- All records relating to any existing or proposed quotas, targets, goals, requirements, expectations, or aspirations for listing, declining to list, de-listing, or down-listing species, whether quantitative or qualitative in nature;
- All records relating to the selection of the 35 species identified in 83 Fed. Reg. 20092 or the 42 species identified in 83 Fed. Reg. 38320 for status reviews;
- All requests or instructions that staff identify listed species that could potentially be delisted or down-listed or candidate species for which listing could potentially be declined, and any records created in response to such requests or instruction; and
- Any and all listing petitions, de-listing petitions, status reviews, or other documents initiating a proposal to list, de-list, or down-list any species, that were forwarded to or reviewed by any of the following person(s), along with any associated responses, instructions, or annotations from the person(s) to whom they were forwarded or by whom they were reviewed:
 - Any person other than an employee of the Service in Region 4 or one of its field offices;
 - Any person who is an employee of the Service in Region 4 or one of its field offices and:
 - Has, at any time since January 20, 2017, been a political appointee (including without limitation any government employee that was appointed by the President, any government employee that was appointed by the Secretary or Administrator of a federal agency, any government employee that has held a Schedule C position, or any employee who has worked in the Executive Office of the President);
 - Has, at any time since January 20, 2017, held a position listed in any version of the document "United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions," otherwise known as the "Plum Book," whether or not the person's actual name appears in a version of the Plum Book;
 - Whose hiring was coordinated with the Presidential Personnel Office; or

- *Who, as a part of their job responsibilities with the Service, communicates with elected officials or their offices*

Response

We have searched our files and at this time, we are releasing a portion of the responsive records. We have located forty-two (42) documents that have been deemed releasable in full. The remainder of our records are undergoing review. Once this review is complete, we will provide you a response concerning the remaining documents.

Conclusion

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Valenta, Chief, Restoration and Recovery, at (404) 679-4144 or aaron_valenta@fws.gov. Thank you for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

7/30/2019

 Tiffany McClurkin

Tiffany McClurkin
Region 4 FOIA Coordinator
Signed by: TIFFANY MCCLURKIN